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## INTRODUCTION:

### MAGTF OPERATIONS

*To move swiftly, strike vigorously, and secure all the fruits of victory is the secret of successful war.*

--Stonewall Jackson,

1824-1863

*I should say that in general the first of two army commanders who adopts an offensive attitude almost always reduces his rival to the defensive and makes him proceed in consonance with the movements of the former.*

--Frederick the Great,  
*Instructions for His*

*Generals*, xi, 1747

*In war, the defensive exists mainly that the offensive may act more freely.*

--Alfred Thayer Mahan,  
*Naval Strategy*, 1911

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*Maneuver warfare is a way of thinking in and about war...It is a state of mind born of a bold will, intellect, initiative, and ruthless opportunism...a philosophy for fighting smart.*

--MCDP 1,  
*Warfighting*

## Course Overview

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### **A History of Protecting American Interests**

The Marine Corps was founded and continues to exist to meet national security needs of the United States. Adaptation and change have been constants throughout Marine Corps history. Continental Marines fought for our country's independence from the fighting tops of wooden frigates. A few years later, the earliest U.S. Marines battled North Africa's Barbary pirates using muskets and cutlasses. Marines were at the forefront as the U.S. became a major regional--and then, global power, protecting American interests at sea and in foreign countries.

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## Course Overview, Continued

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**Innovation and Adaptation** For much of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, the Marine Corps has specialized in the "small war." During World War I, Marines fought alongside the Army with little more than their eagle-globe-and-anchor to distinguish them from soldiers. In World War II, the Marine Corps developed amphibious warfare to a fine art. During the Cold War, Marines served as a potent force-in-readiness while also fighting in prolonged conventional wars in Korea and Vietnam. In the unstable post-Cold War era, Marines fought in a major land war in the Middle East and supported many peacekeeping and humanitarian missions around the world. For more than two centuries, the Marine Corps has evolved and adapted to best meet ever-changing security requirements of the United States.

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**Maneuver From The Sea** Throughout the Marine Corps' varied and colorful history, there has been a consistent thread: the sea. The Marine Corps has always looked to the sea to provide a unique degree of strategic, operational, and tactical mobility. Today's Marine Corps has become our nation's "911 force," specializing in operational maneuver from the sea. The modern Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is a clear manifestation of that mission.

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**MAGTF** Much of the 8800 Program is focused on MAGTF because these expeditionary combined-arms teams are the principal warfighting organizations of the Marine Corps. They are designed to be light enough to get there and heavy enough to win battles. MAGTFs are task organized to match capabilities with the expected missions. They are highly flexible and have the ability to either operate independently or as part of a larger joint or multinational force. MAGTFs can be configured to perform a wide variety of assignments ranging from merely showing a presence to engaging in battle. Whether Marines are rescuing American citizens from turmoil, providing humanitarian aid to foreign refugees, or fighting a high-intensity war against a technologically advanced adversary, they will operate in some form of a MAGTF.

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## Course Overview, Continued

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**Relationship to Other Instruction** wTo be an effective officer, either in the Marine Corps or another service, you will need to understand how MAGTFs are structured, which is covered in *The Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF)* (8804).

wIn the other courses of the 8800 Program, you learned about theoretical aspects of war, how the MAGTF is organized, and what is involved in the planning process. Up to now, you studied war on an operational level and the structure of the MAGTF. This course places that knowledge into practical application covering the actual operation and employment of the MAGTF.

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**Learning From Experience** wAs you read through the lessons in this course, it may help you understand the material if you think about historical events that are examples of the various operations discussed in each lesson. When you read about delaying operations, think about the 4th Marines and their defense of Corregidor or the Marine Defense Battalion and VMF-211 on Wake Island. Chosin Reservoir is a textbook example of a retrograde movement.

wYou might want to think about the many offensive operations the Marine Corps conducted during the World Wars, Korean, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Think about the operations that went well and those that did not. Consider how commanders in each of these cases fought their units. What did they do right? What did they do wrong? Given the same situations, what would you have done differently? One principal benefit of professional military education is that you can think about issues while you have time to reflect. It is a wise commander who learns from the experience of others.

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## Course Organization

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*MAGTF Operations* (8807) is organized in the following manner with respect to lessons, reading hours, issues hours, and total hours for the course.

Lesson	Reading	Issues Hours	Total Hours	Page Number
	Hours			
Lesson 1: Maneuver Warfare	4	1	5	1-1
Lesson 2: Fundamentals of Offensive Operations	1.5	2.5	4	2-1
Lesson 3: MEF Fire Support in the Offense and Defense	3	1	4	3-1
Lesson 4: Combat Service Support Operations	2.5	1	3.5	4-1
Lesson 5: Rear Area Operations	2.5	1	3.5	5-1
Lesson 6: <i>Desert Storm</i> Case Study: MEF in the Offense	5	1	6	6-1
Lesson 7: MEF Defensive Combat Operations	3.5	1	4.5	7-1
Lesson 8: The <i>Pusan Perimeter</i> Case Study: Delay and Defend	2	1	3	8-1
Final Examination			2	
Total	24	9.5	35.5	

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### Reserve Retirement Credits

The total number of study hours required for this course, including the time for the comprehensive final examination, is 35.5 hours. For reservists, inactive duty retirement credits are awarded for every 3 hours of study time.

**The total number of reserve retirement credits awarded to reserve officers for completing this course is 12.**

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## Course Objectives

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<b>Purpose</b>	<i>MAGTF Operations</i> (8807) is intended to provide an overview of offensive and defensive operations.
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p><i>MAGTF Operations</i> (8807) focuses on the operational aspects of MAGTF to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>wManeuver warfare</li><li>wOffensive operations</li><li>wFire support</li><li>wCSS operations</li><li>wRear area operations</li><li>wMEF defensive operations</li></ul> <p>Two historical case studies are also included to reinforce the course material dealing with defensive and offensive operations. Keep in mind that much of the material you have already covered in other courses will be very helpful to your understanding of the subjects covered here.</p>
<b>Maneuver Warfare</b>	Maneuver warfare is central in fighting the MAGTF. Maneuver in time and space is one of the best ways to gain an advantage of tempo, initiative, and willpower.
<b>Logistics and Combat Service Support</b>	Modern warfare is simply not possible without constant and effective logistics and combat service support. These are essential aspects of all operations.
<b>Rear Area Operations</b>	Rear area operations have never been more problematic. Terrorism, long-range weapon systems, hostile foreign population, and a host of other factors threaten these vital areas.
<b>Defensive Combat Operations</b>	Few battles and even fewer wars are won by defensive operations alone. Every commander, however, must understand how to employ his forces in the defense.

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## Course Objectives, Continued

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**Relevant Case  
Studies**

The material presented in this course is reinforced with two case studies:  
Offensive Operations--*Desert Storm* and Defensive Operations--*The Pusan  
Perimeter*.

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# Course Readings

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## Required Readings

Some of the **required readings** are provided to you in the *MAGTF Operations Readings* (8807). These include articles from various professional magazines, journals, as well as doctrinal publications reprinted in annexes. Each annex is referenced in the course according to its sequence in each lesson.

Some of the **required readings** of military publications are provided to you in either the *Joint Pub Readings* (8800); the *FM/FMFRP Readings* (8800); or the *FMFM Readings* (8800). Each reading is referenced under the section title "Required Readings" within each lesson.

The **required readings** provided to you with this course as separate publications are:

MCDP 1, *Warfighting*

MCPD 4, *Logistics*

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## Supplemental Readings

In addition to the mandatory readings, each lesson contains references or supplemental readings that you may use as you need them. They are not included with your course material.

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# Course Evaluation

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## General Information

Read and study the material presented in *MAGTF Operations* (8807) to first develop your understanding of the concepts presented and then to synthesize the information and form your individual interpretation of the concepts. The issues for consideration at the end of each lesson provide a guide for learning, studying, and preparing for the final examination.

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## Examination

The final requirement for *MAGTF Operations* (8807) is a proctored, 2-hour, machine-graded, closed-book examination. There are 50 complex, multiple choice items. The examination items are drawn from information found in the required readings and lessons.

This examination is content-based in nature; you should be very familiar with course content and subject matter both in preparing for the examination and in responding to the final examination items.

There may be more than one answer that appears to be correct for a given item. You must choose the **best** answer.

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## Student Questionnaire

The examination packet for this course includes a student questionnaire. Please comment as the form instructs. Future changes in this course will be based, in part, on your comments and recommendations. **Please complete the questionnaire and remember: What really helps for the future are suggestions on how to do things better!**

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## How to Obtain Assistance

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### **Contacting MCI**

The Marine Corps Institute (MCI) administers the Command and Staff College Distance Education Program (CSCDEP). Questions concerning the program, course material, grades, or enrollment status should be addressed to the MCI PME HelpDesk by any of the following methods:

wDSN telephone: 288-2299/0193, extension 303

wCommercial telephone: (202) 433-2299/0193, extension 303

wBanyan: PME HELPDESK@SSD@MCI (Search on "HelpDesk")

wInternet: helpdesk@hqi.usmc.mil

wMail: Marine Corps Institute  
ATTN: Registrar  
Washington Navy Yard  
912 Poor Street SE  
Washington, DC 20391-5680

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### **Contacting CCE**

The Marine Corps University College of Continuing Education (CCE) provides enhancements to the CSCDEP through local seminars, video teleconferencing, a video library, and other products designed to enhance the student's learning experience.

Address your questions about course content to CCE by any of the methods below. Ask for the *MAGTF Operations* (8807) course leader.

wDSN telephone: 278-4390/4324

wCommercial telephone: (703) 784-4390/4324

wToll free telephone: 1-800-992-9210

wBanyan: mcrc.mcu@mccdc

wInternet: cce@quantico.usmc.mil

wWeb page: <http://138.156.203.52/cce/cce.htm>